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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Flores, Osvaldo A. <i>et al.</i>	
Serial No.:	To Be Assigned	Case No.: 21080P
Filed:	On Even Date Herewith	
For:	HEPATITIS C VIRUS ASSAY SYSTEMS	

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Commission for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants request that the present application be amended as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**  
DATE OF DEPOSIT October 8, 2004  
EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV321988702US  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS  
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DATE 10-8-04